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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226949

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV 14
FROM BOGOTA REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9359

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CO XM

SU': LA FONMINS CONFERENCE OPENS

SUMMARY: COLOMBIAN FONMIN VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA CONVENED THE LA FONMINS' CONFERENCE AT 1130 AND THE CONFERENCE WAS ADDRESSED BY PRES PASTRANA AND PERUVIAN FONMIN DE LA FLOR VALLE. PERU MEXICO VENEZUELA AND THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN NATIONS ARE PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY AT THE CONFERENCE AND OCCASIONALLY PROPOSING RADICAL POSITIONS WHICH IN TURN ARE SUBSEQUENTLY MODERATED BY THE INTERVENTION OF BRAZIL, CHILE URUGUAY AND CENTRAL AMERICANS. END SUMMARY

1. COLOMBIAN FONMIN CONVENED THE LA FONMINS' CONFERENCE AT 1130 ON NOV 14. FOLLOWING HIS ELECTION AS PRES OF THE CONFERENCE AND
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THE ELECTION OF THE FONMIN OF NICARAGUA AS VICE PRES FOR THE CA BLOCK

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AND GUYANESE FONMIN AS VICE PRES FOR THE CARIBBEAN BLOCK, VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA WELCOMED THE DELS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT 19 FONMINS WERE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE AND THAT 24 COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED. HIS WELCOME WAS FOLOWED BY A SPEECH BY PRES PASTRANA TO WHICH THE PERUVIAN FONMIN RESPONDED ON BEHALF OF THE OTHER DELS.

2. IN HIS STATESMANLIKE SPEECH PRES PASTRANA REPEATEDLY CITED THE NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AMONG THE LA NATIONS AND BETWEEN LA AND THE U S. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE EXISTING INSTRUMENTS OF COOPERATION HAVE BECOME WEAK AND ARE CHARACTERIZED BY UNCERTAINTY. HE ADDED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS TO ARRIVE AT PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN LA, GUARANTEE ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND ESTABWISH USEFUL CONTACTS BETWEEN LA AND THE U S. PASTRANA WELCOMED SECY OF STATE KISSINGER'S INITIATIVE IN OPENING A "NEW DIALOGUE." HE EMPHASIZED THAT LA MULTILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U S MUST BE BASED ON EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR THE FREE DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF LA. THE PRES HIGHLIGHTED LA DETERMINATION TO REMAIN A CONTINENT OF PEACE AND TO DEVELOP THE MECHANISMS TO ENSURE THAT PEACE INDEPENDENT OF FOREIGN POWERS. HE SPOKE OF THE NECESSITY TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH A PROCESS OF INTEGRATION IN DEFENSE OF RAW MATERIALS AND DISCUSSED THE ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE WORLD. PASTRANA ALSO CALLED FOR COORDINATED ACTION ON THE MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL FRONTS AND HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF LA TIES WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

3. PERUVIAN MIN DE LA FLOR VALLE GAVE A RESTRAINED SPEECH IN WHICH HE STRESSED THE NEED TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT MTG AND PRAISED SECY KISSINGER'S INITIATIVE IN SUGGESTING A NEW DIALOGUE. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE FACTORS INTERFERING WITH HARMONIOUS RELATIONS IN THE HEMISPHERE AND STATED THAT LA MUST NOT REMAIN ON THE MARGIN OF HISTORY. HE SAID THAT THE U S MUST ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A QUALITATIVE CHANGE IN ITS RELATIONS WITH LA BUT THAT THE LA NATIONS TOO MUST ASSUME THEIR RESPON-SIBILITIES IN ORDER FULLY TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.

4. VARIOUS DELS REPORTED THAT PERU MEXICO AND TO A LESSER EXTENT VENEZUELA WERE THE MOST ACTIVE AND RADICAL PARTICIPANTS AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING, WITH COLOMBIA FEELING SOME OBLIGATION, ACCORDING TO A COLOMBIAN DEL, TO GO ALONG WITH THEIR SUGGESTIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

A COLOMBIAN DEL ALSO DESCRIBED THE ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN NATIONS AS BEING VERY ACTIVE AT THE CONFERENCE AND OTHER SOURCES CLASSIFIED THEM AS HAVING A MODERATING INFLUENCE. BRAZIL CHILE URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY AND THE CA HAVE EXERTED A DISTINCT MODERATING INFLUENCE AND SEVERELY DAMPENED SOME OF THE MORE RADICAL POSITIONS ASSUMED BY THE PERUVIANS MEXICANS ET. AL. THE BRAZILIANS HAVE EARNED EVERYONE'S ADMIRATION FOR THEIR GREAT SKILL AND HARD WORK. THEY ARE, WITH THE AID OF FRIENDS, COMING VERY CLOSE TO RUNNING

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THE CONFERENCE BEHIND THE SCENES.

5. THERE IS A PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POSITION FOR JUST ABOUT EVERYONE AT THIS CONFERENCE. THE BRAZILIANS AND ARGENTINES AND TO A SLIGHTLY LESSER EXTENT VENEZUELA, ARE PRIVATELY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IT WAS ADEQUATELY PLANNED FOR AND CRITICIZE VAZQUEZ FOR USING IT AS A PERSONAL VEHICLE TO PROMOTE HIMSELF AND COLOMBIA. PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, THEY HAVE ADOPTED A VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND ARE WORKING TREMENDOUSLY HARD IN A SEARCH FOR A MULTILATERAL APPROACH THAT WILL NOT RESULT IN DAMAGE TO THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE U S. THE CENTRAL AMERUEANS ARE ALSO SKAPTICAL OF THE CONFERENCE BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT THEY ARE BEING DRAGGED INTO POSITIONS ABOUT WHICH THEY DO NOT CARE VERY MUCH AND IN WHICH THEY WOULD PREFER NOT TO PARTICIPATE. THE ENGLISH SPEAKING COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN FEEL THAT THERE IS TOO MUCH "BEATING OF THE SYMBOLIC DRUMS."

6. THERE IS A DRIVE UNDERWAY NOW TO HOLD ANOTHER CONFERENCE PRIOR TO MTG WITH SECY, OR AT LEAST TO SCHEDULE ONE. SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL FONMINS (INCLUDING CALVANI OF VENEZUELA) REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THIS WOULD

ENABLE THEM TO GET AWAY FROM BOGOTA WITH A MINIMAL DOCUMENT OR PERHAPS NONE AT ALL.

7. THE BIG ISSUE NOW BEFORE THE FONMINS IS THE LANGUAGE REGARDING PANAMA. THROUGH THE INSISTENCE OF A NUMBER OF FONMINS INCLUDING VAZQUEZ PHRASES SUCH AS "OCCUPYING ARMY" AND "VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGN-TY" HAVE BEEN DROPPED. THE PREPARATORY MTG IN ITS STATEMENT ON PANAMA INCLUDED A PHRASE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED PROMPTLY IN FAVOR OF PANAMA (SEE BOGOTA 9331). PANAMA TOLD THE WORKING GROUP THAT UNLESS THE PARAGRAPH DEALING WITH THE PANAMA CANAL CONTAINED SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES TO FORGET THE CONFIDENTIAL

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WHOLE THING. THERE IS STILL UNDERWAY AN EFFORT LED BY PERU AND MEXICO TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE LANGUAGE BUT BRAZIL AND THE CA COUN-TRIES ARE RESISTING.

8. COMMENT: AS OUR INFO COMES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THERE IS INEVITABLY SOME APPEARANCE OF CONTRADICTION BUT WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO REPORT THE FLAVOR OF THE MTG AS EVENTS UNFOLD.
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